



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region II

Subject: **SITREP #46**
Region 2 Hurricane Irma/Hurricane Maria

Edison, NJ
Latitude: 40.5230137 Longitude: -74.3411515

To: Hurricane Maria SitRep Distribution, EPA

Thru: REOC Regional Incident Coordinator Eric Mosher; REOC Deputy Regional Incident Coordinators, Christopher Jimenez (PR), Shawna Hoppe (REOC), Neil Norrell (USVI)

From: Situation Unit

Date: 10/21/2017

Reporting Period: 1400 HRS 10/20/2017 to 1400 HRS 10/21/2017

Executive Summary

EPA responders, including OSCs, CICs, Safety Officers, CID/NCERT agents, and EPA contractors, are performing post-storm response activities, including assessments at regulated facilities, NPL/Removal sites, drinking water and wastewater facilities, and marine operations. Resource orders have begun for additional personnel for the response.

The Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC) in Edison NJ remains fully staffed and operational. Two OSCs and one CEPD personnel are at the FEMA JFO in San Juan, along with one Assistant PIO from media relations and one Assistant PIO for community involvement. Plans for the assessment of fixed facilities, Superfund sites, and critical infrastructure are in place and are being utilized. The REOC Planning and Operations Sections are developing plans for the assessment of areas of special concern and debris management.

EPA has been requested to assist with the handling and disposal of HHW, medical waste and e-waste for the US Virgin Islands. EPA will also assist with the preparation of white goods for recycling by VIWMA. EPA is waiting for DPNR to issue permits for the HHW staging location on STX and waiting for DPNR to identify a staging location on STT.

Currently there are **164 EPA and 108 contractors** involved in the response. The overall staffing levels are expected to increase as other MAs are issued by FEMA.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	Contract Number:
D.O. Number:	Action Memo Date:
Response Authority: Stafford Act	Response Type: Emergency
Response Lead: FEMA	Incident Category: Removal Assessment
NPL Status:	Operable Unit:
Mobilization Date: 9/3/2017	Start Date: 8/31/2017
Demob Date:	Completion Date:
CERCLIS ID:	RCRIS ID:
ERNS No.:	State Notification:

1.1.1 Incident Category

An emergency response is warranted under the Stafford Act for responding to threats associated with Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria. The President has made emergency declarations and disaster declarations for Puerto Rico and all of the U.S. Virgin Islands following Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Declarations can be found on FEMA's website at <https://www.fema.gov/disasters/>. EPA is responding under these delegations and authorities.

1.1.2 Site Description and Locations

Puerto Rico is a U.S. Commonwealth consisting of a main island and two smaller islands: Culebra and Vieques. Approximately 3.4 million people live in Puerto Rico with a diversified terrain with a central mountain range, southern dry zones and coastal beaches. With varied natural resources, such as El Yunque National Rain Forest and prized beaches, Puerto Rico receives many tourists each year. There are 78 municipalities throughout Puerto Rico.

The United States Virgin Islands (USVI) consists of three islands; St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix. The islands receive thousands of tourists annually, particularly on cruise ships through the port in Charlotte Amalie. Topography is consistent with Caribbean islands in that the center areas are elevated peaks that slope to flat coastal areas. The Virgin Islands are surrounded by sandy beaches and coral reefs. Eighty percent of St. John is a National Park, and Buck Island off of St. Croix is a National Underwater Reef.

1.1.3 Description of Threat

Threats include the release of chemicals and petroleum products as a direct result of high winds and flooding. Damage to facilities located within impacted areas have the potential to transport containers, chemical waste, and process equipment that contain hazardous materials. High winds have the potential to collapse chemical and oil storage tanks and damage on-shore chemical facilities. Water and wind damage to commercial and residential buildings can generate large amounts of household hazardous waste (HHW) which poses a threat to public health and the environment. Because of the insular geography of the impacted areas there is an additional threat of releases of chemicals and petroleum products into sensitive shoreline areas, including Green Turtle breeding grounds, mangrove swamps, and coral reefs. In the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, the entire power grid on Puerto Rico was put out of commission, and drinking water/wastewater-treatment facilities on Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands have been severely impacted.

1.2 Incident Objectives

Region 2 - Hurricanes Maria Incident Objectives

1. The health and safety of our responders is our highest priority. Develop health and safety messages daily for all field operations;
2. Ensure health and safety of the public by conducting environmental assessments and operating in accordance with approved site safety plans;
3. Coordinate deployments and field activities with community involvement coordinator and Assistant Safety Officers;
4. Coordinate with the National Response Coordination Center;
5. Continue coordination with OSCs deployed at the FEMA Interim Operating Facility in San Juan, PR
6. Continue coordination with OSCs deployed to the EOCs on St. Croix and St. Thomas;
7. Coordinate and prioritize the assessment of Hazardous Material and Oil Response sites in Puerto Rico and USVI;
8. Coordinate with CEPD, prioritize and perform drinking water and waste water assessment targets in Puerto Rico and the USVI;
9. Coordinate, prioritize and perform fixed facility assessments of RMP, FRP and SPCC facilities in Puerto Rico and the USVI;
10. Perform preparation activities for upcoming field deployment of clean-up resources for abandoned containers, household hazardous waste, hazardous debris and hazardous material staging areas in Puerto Rico and USVI;
11. Continue consolidating ERRS equipment for FEMA transport to Puerto Rico;
12. Coordinate all field activities with CEPD program office staff and FEMA division coordinators. Support CEPD operations that are within the scope of the FEMA Mission Assignments;
13. Coordinate with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in support of the collection of household hazard waste in the USVI;
14. Support USCG sunken vessel recovery operations and coordinate operations with ESF10 partner USCG;
15. Continue drinking water sampling and facility assessments as coordinated and prioritized with DPRN in the USVI;
16. Develop and implement a full staffing plan to increase the response effort to meet the FEMA mission assignments and then for continuous operation in Puerto Rico, USVI and the REOC.

Region 2 – Hurricanes Maria Management Objectives

- Protect the health and safety of EPA employees during re-deployment to VI and PR in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.
- Implement a re-position plan to address communications schedules, employee location information, rallying points, and a cellular and satellite communication plan.
- Coordinate with FEMA on the re-position and remobilization of EPA responders.
- Implement a re-mobilization plan.
- Minimize social, political, and economic adverse impacts.
- Maintain communication and briefing schedule with R2 senior executives and EPA Headquarters. Support a consistent communications approach agency-wide, enabling EPA to act and speak in unison during these incidents.
- Provide situation reports and other information on schedule provided by RIC.
- Provide guidance for length of work day and deployments as it pertains to this specific event.
- Identify clearly defined roles for both Regions and Headquarters.
- Identify long-term recovery objectives the Agency may be requested to support, and determine resources needed to support/sustain those requests to accomplish the objectives.
- Secure NPL and removal sites. Survey Regulated facilities and Superfund and oil sites.
- Identify vulnerabilities at regulated facilities.
- Address any immediate hazardous substance releases or oil spills resulting from the storm's impact.
- Assist state and local agencies in ensuring safety of drinking water systems.
- Monitor air quality when/if necessary in response to conditions on the ground.
- Coordinate logistics for deployed personnel to provide transportation, lodging, food & water, security, and ground transportation in the impacted areas.
- Coordinate national resources to assist the Region.
- The response will use the Region's incident specific Data Management Plan (DMP).
- In collecting, sharing, and analyzing environmental data, EPA will give primacy to data with potential human health consequences.
- EPA will work to ensure that its decision-makers have access to the data and expertise they need to make decisions based on sound science.

1.3 Critical Resource Needs

PR

As the number of personnel and the diversity of the missions expands, the R2 REOC and the PR IC are considering expanding the ICS structure in PR. The Branch Directors and the IC are sending their proposed staffing needs to the R2 REOC for consideration.

Commercial air traffic to PR remains limited, but is improving; however, several flights have been delayed for several hours, causing some logistical problems in San Juan. In addition, hotel accommodations are limited, sometimes necessitating double rooming.

The unavailability of equipment or transportation capacity to date has seriously impacted and delayed

EPA's efforts to protect the hazardous waste and debris cleanup components of the FEMA mission assignments. There have been significant difficulties in scheduling barge space to transport equipment from CONUS. The EPA and the ERRS contractor are working through FEMA at the NRCC to secure space on the transport barges.

Electric utilities are intermittent, but improving in the most populous areas throughout the Commonwealth. Fuel to run generators is scarce in some areas. Additional generators are needed to support critical infrastructure.

Cellular communications and internet connectivity remain intermittent in most areas of PR; communicating with the field teams is difficult. Some improvement has been observed, especially in the most populous areas. However, in the West Branch and the South Branch, communications are poor at best. There is a critical need to improve service for internet and cell phone communications. Logistics is shipping cell phones and hand-held radios to San Juan for distribution to the Branches. The R2 REOC is coordinating the deployment of satellite sleds to each of the three branches.

Several EPA team members in the South branch have had to change rooms at the Holiday Inn due to mold and mildew issues.

Dangerous driving conditions are evident in many of the mountainous areas of PR due to the excessive rain and denuded hillsides. Health and Safety identified USGS satellite imagery that identifies many of the recent mudslides. This data has been added to the EPA Viewer.

NOTE: Yauco in the West Branch has been very inaccessible, very remote mountainous areas, sparsely populated, extremely dangerous roads and driving conditions – hurricane damage, trees down, debris, landslides, one lane, dirt road, waterfalls coming down the mountain.

VI

Commercial air traffic to the USVI remains limited. This is making transport of personnel and equipment needed to support the missions assigned and requested of EPA difficult.

Fuel to run generators is becoming scarce and additional generators are needed to support critical infrastructure.

Cellular communications and internet connectivity on all islands remains intermittent, making communication with the field teams difficult.

Driving conditions remain hazardous due to downed power poles/lines and power outages causing a lack of traffic signals making travel around the islands difficult and time-consuming.

EPA needs a determination from FEMA regarding the payment of excise tax to the USVI in order to have ERRS equipment released.

1.4 Strategic Considerations

Operational tactics are managed through the Operation Section of the response. Strategic considerations that may be used for decision-making include: adverse weather conditions, damage to infrastructure including airports, hotels, blocked/damaged roads, receipt of Mission Assignments, requests for assistance on the local level, integration with ESF-10 partners, logistical concerns, available transportation of assets, resources, and management objectives.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

REGION 2 REGIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (REOC)

The RICT remains fully engaged in the response with senior meetings and briefings conducted daily. The DRIC continues to develop mobilization and staffing plans to support upcoming operations in support of FEMA Mission Assignments for Operational Support, Assessment Direct Federal Assistance Cleanup and Drinking Water/Waste Water assessment and support in Puerto Rico.

Resource orders have been entered into the WebEOC Personnel Resource Log for mobilization of additional personnel. Field staff numbers are nearing a full operational status. As above, resources such as lodging/berthing and air transportation continue to be complicating factors.

PUERTO RICO

R2 DRIC-PR

After undergoing QA review by the Environmental Unit, the analytical results from the drinking water samples collected on 10/14/17 at the Dorado Groundwater Superfund Site were determined to be not of acceptable quality for their intended use. The five wells at the Dorado Site were resampled on 10/19/17 and are undergoing more extensive sample collection on 10/20/17. We are currently awaiting results for these samples.

The RIC and DRIC-PR continue to coordinate with the Environmental Unit, PRDOH, PREQB and PRASA regarding the analytical laboratory services available in Puerto Rico. During the last two weeks DESA personnel have conducted visits at PRDOH, PRASA, PREQB, and commercial facilities to assess their operating status and analytical services. A final report and spreadsheet of their findings has been prepared. There is a FEMA Mission Assignment in place to assist with funding the PRASA, PREQB and PRDOH labs with needed repairs, equipment and personnel to come back into service. On 10/19 a conference call was held that included representatives from PRDOH, PREQB, CDC and EPA. As a result of the call it was determined that CDC will be engaging with PRDOH for the refurbishment of their lab in Caguas under ESF #8 and EPA, under ESF#10, will coordinate with EQB for refurbishing their lab in Bayamon. EPA will also replenish supplies, standards, and reagents.

The EPA Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contractor is planning to transport (by barge) necessary equipment to support the debris MAs, using a FEMA transport mechanism. The equipment has been delivered to Charleston, SC, from where it will be transported to Puerto Rico by barge, disembarking on or about 10/23/17. A staging area at the US Army Garrison - Ft. Buchanan, in Guaynabo, has been secured for the eventual staging of this equipment. This location will be used to stage equipment and will not be a hazardous materials/waste staging area. Additional personnel, both EPA and contractors, continue to mobilize to Puerto Rico.

FEMA JFO/PR

EPA continued coordination with FEMA, the USACE, USCG and the Commonwealth of PR in regards to field operations, assessment of fixed facilities, drinking water infrastructure and data transfer. The coordination and communication with federal partners has been vital. EPA is expanding their drinking water and waste water assessment missions to partner with teams from the Puerto Rico Department of State (PRDOS) and non-Government Organizations (NGOs). Coordinated field work with the PRDOH and CEPD was expected to begin on 10/17/17, but has been delayed.

Incident Command

The Puerto Rico Incident Commander is coordinating with the CEPD Water Inspectors, Remedial and RCRA staff on site and facilities for assessments. The IC continues to coordinate with EPA/CID for security support. A PIO Coordinator is supporting Incident Command. The IC is coordinating with the USCG for Marine Operations and hazardous material response related to sunken vessel recovery.

EPA continues to coordinate with the USACE in support of EPA's hazardous materials removal operations Mission Assignment. USACE is currently completing the permit process for several locations for debris collection staging areas. Until USACE's areas are identified and permitted, EPA is also coordinating with EQB and individual municipalities to establish temporary hazardous materials staging areas. Many municipalities have established debris storage areas at their local landfills. EPA is conducting site visits with USACE and EQB at the proposed USACE staging areas, as well municipal collection areas.

Quick response teams consisting of OSCs, CEPD, CID, and RSC contractors are prepared to investigate reports of hazardous chemical releases and any other relevant incidents.

All PR Branches

The Puerto Rico Department of State (PRDOS), PR Department of Justice (PRDOJ) and non-Governmental Organization (NGO) teams are integrating personnel into the non-PRASA assessment teams. The PRDOS/DOJ team mission is to document conditions in the communities served by non-PRASA wells where EPA teams are conducting assessments, and to initiate distribution of water and food rations. The PRDOS teams will report needs of the community directly to FEMA at the JFO in San Juan. This mission is being coordinated in the JFO in San Juan, but has not yet been implemented. Teams are in place in some of the North and West Branches as of 10/19/17.

North Branch

Dorado Wells Sampling

EPA's CID, CEPD and the RST contractor completed sampling the well locations associated with the Dorado Groundwater Contamination Superfund Site. Samples were collected for Chloramines, Chlorine Dioxide, VOCs, SVOCs, Fluoride, Bromate, Chlorite, nitrate, Nitrites, Antimony, Arsenic, Lead, Selenium, Thallium, HAA, Cyanide, Diquat, Endothall, Turbidity, Total Metals, Mercury, Free Chlorine, Total Coliform, THM VOC, Carbofuran, Oxamyl, Dioxin, gross Alpha/gross Beta, Radium 226, Radium 228, Uranium, PCB, Pesticides, and asbestos and were submitted to EQ Labs in Puerto Rico. Two samples were collected at each station: one sample was collected as soon as the spigot was turned on; one sample was collected after 5 minutes of flushing. Nevarez, Santa Rosa, Maguayo 2, Maguayo 4, and Maguayo 6 were sampled. Guards were posted at Maguayo 2, Maguayo 4, and Maguayo 6 to deter the residents from gathering drinking water from these locations. The results of this sampling effort are expected next week.

Fixed facility assessments

The team conducted four assessments today: Intel Puerto Rico Inc., McNeil Consumer, Owens-Illinois Inc., and U.S. Coast Guard. No significant issues were identified for follow-up.

HHW Management Toa Baja

At the CVS Staging Area, multiple items were collected from a debris pile including buckets of paint, aerosol cans, paint cans, a fire extinguisher, batteries, propane tanks, syringes (bio-waste) and electronics.

Emergency Response Operations

EPA continues to maintain emergency response operations. On 10/20, EPA investigated four reports of environmental incidents. None of these required significant follow-up actions.

South Branch

HHW Assessment Team

The command center was relocated.

The team visited potential EPA staging/Waste staging areas located at Maonabo and is waiting on an access agreement to be signed.

The HHW Assessment Team met with Zone 6 PREMA Director to go over HHW Mission at 8 am on 10/20/2017. The Director facilitated contacts for all the Municipalities (Mayors and Municipal Emergency Managers). EPA representatives made contact with officials in Guayanilla, Juana Diaz, and Villalba.

DW Assessment Team

DW groups conducted drinking water assessments in Ponce, Barranquitas, Coamo, and Orocovis municipalities today. Sixteen non-PRASA assessments were completed: six were functional, five were functional with no chlorination, and five were non-operational. EPA teamed with PR DOJ today who provided support in guiding our teams to locations as well as offered an SUV to assist with getting to remote, mountainous locations. PR Department of Health met with the South Branch Director and provided field sheets with locations where they had been conducting assessments, in an effort to avoid overlapping investigations.

West Branch

On 10/20/17, the West Branch continued coordination with USACE on Debris Management staging area locations in Mayaguez.

Fixed Facilities teams:

Teams inspected non-PRASA drinking water wells in Adjuntas, Utuado and Yuaco. A non-PRASA system was assessed at La Montana, Yuaco. The facility is in need of assistance (electricity).

HHW Assessment Team:

The Team continued assessing several possible debris staging areas at Moco EcoPark and Aguadilla Transfer Station. Both are likely locations for HHW collection.

The team met with the Mayor and Director of Emergency Management in Isabella to discuss debris management in that municipality.

Dangerous driving conditions continue due to the heavy rainfall. Closed roads may limit future assessments. As previously noted, the ASO recommends that any travel in the mountainous areas be conducted early in the day due to afternoon rain and thunderstorms.

Vieques and Culebra Islands

EPA conducted a preliminary assessment on the island of Vieques. The following locations were visited and issues investigated and/or concerns discussed.

Adult Day Care Center Asbestos Assessment: A vacant building located behind the Adult Day Care center was reported as having asbestos-containing building materials that had been previously “encapsulated”. Some suspected non-friable ACM pieces were observed in easily accessible areas near the building and adjacent lot. It was recommended to local government to restrict access to the area. Removal of the ACM was identified as a potential action item for Operations to address with the ERRS contractor. The local government would like to remove and relocate equipment from the adult day care center, but were concerned because of the ACM. In the area to be used for such, no suspected ACM was observed; therefore, it was communicated to the local government that they could safely remove and relocate the equipment.

Municipal Hospital: EPA investigated reports of a strong odor and possible mildew/mold in an area of the hospital that got wet during/after Hurricane Maria. EPA identified that the Army/National Guard is now “running” the building and has addressed (cleaned) the area of concern.

Debris Piles along the streets: There is no segregation of materials (e.g., hazardous substances, white goods).

Landfill: No segregation of hazardous materials, white goods and e- goods is occurring.

WWTP: The facility is operational and no problems have been identified.

PRASA: PRASA facilities are working fine with generators. All systems on the island are PRASA, no non-PRASA systems are present.

NPL Site Assessments

EPA personnel continue to conduct preliminary assessments at Superfund or Oil Response Sites in Puerto Rico and evaluate the potential for contamination to cause off-site impacts as a result of Hurricane Maria. The REOC continues to follow up regularly with the RPMs for each site.

Hazardous Debris Assessment

EPA has added Hazardous Debris Assessment Teams to each of the three field branches to coordinate with CEPD and USACE. These teams have a list of the landfills and other locations identified by CEPD that are being considered for temporary hazardous debris staging pads. The teams will also document areas where municipalities and residents have begun to accumulate hazardous debris, such as roadside dumping locations for pick up and transportation to approved staging pads. The coordinator for Hazardous Debris Assessment is Carlos Huertas, who is located in San Juan.

EPA Criminal Investigation Division

CID is scaling back on staffing in Puerto Rico, and all out-of-region CID agents have been demobilized. CID will maintain their normal compliment of two agents on PR. These agents will be available for security details on request of the IC. Additional agents will be mobilized to PR on an as-needed basis.

USCG Marine Operations in Puerto Rico

EPA continues coordination with USCG for location and data management for sunken and damaged vessels through Response Manager. EPA and RST personnel continue to assist US Coast Guard with abandoned vessel identification. Approximately 245 targets (vessels) have been verified from field teams.

All Active Teams (land and water assessments) will continue to conduct citizen engagement outreach, and collect vessel and owner information on Survey 1-2-3/Response Manager database to be overlaid into ERMA. USCG OSRO contractors will plug boat vents, deploy containment and absorbent boom to mitigate on-water sheen for newly identified vessels, conduct follow-up survey assessments to evaluate previously deployed containment and absorbent boom and coordinate with USCG OSRO contractors to maintain and replace when necessary.

USCG Marine Operations will conduct a Safety Stand Down on Sunday 10/22/17. A safety review of past practices and projected operations will be conducted. Standard procedures for “sticker” and photo documentation will be reviewed.

(*VIP visit) OSC Kane presented and contributed to a power point presentation for the EPA/USCG ESF-10 Mission Assignment as it relates to sunken/abandoned vessel recovery operations. The presentation was conducted at ESF-10 ICP and included the USCG IMT, DNER Secretary, USCG Sector San Juan Commander, and a USDO representative.

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

STX:

EPA continues to attend the Debris Management Task Force meetings regarding debris management and curtain burn operations. Pending official Territorial approval, debris and burn operations remain on hold.

EPA continues to coordinate with the USCG on supporting vessel recovery operations.

EPA ERRS contractor procured a method for shipping of materials and equipment to the USVI. The

materials and equipment were shipped via barge from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The equipment and supplies have arrived on both STT and STX, but is being held at the docks pending payment of Territorial Excise Tax. EPA is working with FEMA to resolve the matter in order to have the equipment released.

EPA facilitated a drinking water coordination meeting to clarify goals for this activity and action items needed to achieve them.

STT/STJ:

The STT/SJT IC spends portions of each day at the Virgin Island Territorial Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA) office and at the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Incident Command Post (ICP) that supports Boat Recovery Operations. The VITEMA office serves as the EOC for the federal and territorial Emergency Support Functions (ESF). Daily ESF briefings are at 0730 and cover operations occurring for that day. The EPA Field Office in STT will soon support the IC, CICs, and logistics for mob/demob of response staff supporting EPA response activities.

The USCG ICP serves USCG, EPA, Response Support Team (RST), and ERRS, and an office has been provided for the USVI DPNR.

Sampling and assessment teams continue to meet daily at the Oceans Systems Laboratory for a daily briefing and work with laboratory staff and DPNR to identify sampling locations.

EPA continues the assessment of EPA regulated facilities.

EPA continues to coordinate with the USCG on supporting vessel recovery operations.

EPA ERRS contractor procured a method for shipping of materials and equipment to the USVI. The materials and equipment were shipped via barge from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The equipment and supplies have arrived on both STT and STX, but is being held at the docks pending payment of Territorial Excise Tax. EPA is working with FEMA to resolve the matter in order to have the equipment released.

DEBRIS MANAGEMENT (ALL ISLANDS):

EPA has been requested to assist with the handling and disposal of HHW, medical waste and e-waste. EPA will also assist with the preparation of white goods for recycling by VIWMA. EPA is waiting for DPNR to issue permits for the HHW staging location on STX and STT.

The bid for transport and disposal of the medical waste on STX and STT was awarded yesterday. Operations could begin as early as Tuesday 10/24/17.

USACE has requested EPA assistance with air monitoring during the USACE's air curtain burning of vegetative debris activities, should the burn take place. USACE intends to segregate construction and demolition (C&D) debris prior to burn operations. The C&D debris will be handled by VIWMA. Additionally, USACE may request EPA assistance with the sampling and/or disposal of ash generated during burn operations.

USCG Marine Operations in USVI

Data Management

EPA continues to assist the USCG with data management by inputting the vessel assessment info into Response Manager.

Two land based vessel assessment teams composed of EPA support contractors/RST, DPNR and USCG were deployed today. One team of RST, DPNR and USCG flew the coastline in a helicopter to try and spot sunken vessels not previously discovered to date.

Outreach and Communications

DPNR is compiling a list of owners of the distressed vessels based upon their initial assessments. Owners will be notified by phone, by certified letter and by public service announcements that their vessel needs to be removed. USCG has provided administrative personnel to assist with these notifications. RST continues entering this data into Response Manager.

DPNR continued to receive notifications from vessel owners who are indicating whether they want their vessel or will waive their right to it.

The USVI PIO is finalizing a public service announcement to be issued this week, advising owners of sunken or grounded boats that they need to remove them by the deadline, or the USCG will remove them.

The hard date is December 1st, after which all distressed vessels will be removed.

Response Actions and Issues

USCG will contract with National Response Corp (NRS) and/or Resolve Maritime to remove fuels, batteries and gray/black water from vessels.

EPA will be handling all materials once they are brought to shore for disposal. EPA will remove HHW from the vessels.

EPA needs to speak with WAPA about dewatering the recovered fuels.

EPA met with the seaplane operator to discuss the use of a barge mounted crane to lay vessels on shore near their flight path. All parties will work together to ensure safe and smooth operations.

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1. Resources

Personnel	EPA Edison, NJ NYC	FEMA NRCC, DC	San Juan, Puerto Rico*	Mayaguez, Puerto Rico	Ponce, Puerto Rico	St. Croix USVI*	St. Thomas/ St. John USVI*	Totals
EPA	76	0	18	12	12	8	8	134

CEPD (EPA)	0	0	29	0	0	0	1	30
START/ RST	15	0	17	8	7	5	13	65
ERRS	8	0	6	0	0	13	16	43
Totals	99	0	70	20	19	26	38	272

*Number includes personnel working at JFO, EOC, CEPD field inspectors.

Please refer to the Personnel On-Site section four for further information regarding personnel.

2.2.2 Environmental Unit:

The EU/DESA certified drinking water lab assessment of PR and VI is complete. OPS and the EU continue to coordinate to resolve the requests for EPA support in assistance in bringing microbiological and chemical methods back online for PRDOH and PREQCB.

The EU received the final results for the water quality parameter analysis yesterday of the Dorado GW samples taken 10/14/17. The EU is awaiting the results from the latest sampling on 10/19 and 10/20.

The EU continues to prepare and track progress on the development and approval of QAPPs for the sampling or monitoring.

QAPPs in progress are:

- PWS DW Sampling QAPP – Final 9/28/17
- Addendum 1 for Chemical Analysis – Final 10/14/17
- Vegetative Debris Burn – Final 10/10/17
- Response HW Collection Pad Soil Sampling – Final 10/16/17
- Air Monitoring at Response HW Collection Pad Sampling – Final 10/18/17
- Supplemental DW Sampling & Analysis QAPP - On hold for input from CWD and CEPD
- Construction and Demolition Debris Burn – On hold
- Waste Water Effluent Sampling – On hold

2.2.3 Documentation Unit

The documentation unit has drafted guidance for use and record-keeping of text messages for the Hurricane Maria Response. While use of text messaging for substantive communication is discouraged, it is understood that some situations may necessitate it, given the complex conditions on the ground in the Caribbean.

The guidance was posted to the response SharePoint site.

2.2.4 GIS and Data

Data Unit processed field data collected yesterday and updated reporting tables for the management report and continued processing Survey 123 forms in EPA Geoplatform. Data viewer was updated with information from 10/20. Dorado sample results table was amended to allow for PAD understanding of the data. Data Unit worked with field teams to determine delineation of FEMA divisions and PREMA zones for HHW operations; divisions and zones will be added to the viewer at a later date. Data Unit processed and QA/QC'd drinking water assessments for field teams to create reports.

2.3 Logistics Section

Logistics is coordinating with the contracting officer and lodging unit leader to address lodging needs in Puerto Rico. Logistics is also working with all OPS locations to identify and track who in the field has accountable equipment.

AT&T cell phones were sent to Western Puerto Rico Branch in Mayaguez. Logistics is waiting for confirmation that the cell phones were received.

Logistics will be shipping additional satellite phones, 10/24 or 10/25. We are trying to get better accountability of phones already sent to the Islands prior to shipping additional phones.

Nine MultiRAE's were shipped to CEPD Puerto Rico North Branch in San Juan Friday afternoon via FedEx.

2.4 Finance Section

As of 10/21 EPA has a total of 11 active MAs issued by FEMA. These MAs are to maintain REOC operations, conduct assessments in the impacted areas of PR and VI, and initiate limited hazmat recovery in the VI. In response to the devastating impact of Hurricane Maria on PR and the VI, the ESF10 desk continues to interact with FEMA for additional Mission Assignments for RRCC/JFO/EPA EOC, staffing and assessments, and environmental assessments for both VI and PR.

FEMA MAs are detailed in the daily Management Report and display the purpose of the MAs, total funding, and burn rates.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

The Safety Officers are Greg DeAngelis who can be reached at 732-906-6874 and Brian Kovak who can be reached at 908-202-9848 (cell).

The SO obtained ASO Deployment schedule from Resources as well as lodging information from Logistics. This information will provide SO with contact information to send down hard copy Workers Comp forms to

each Division/Branch. SO will continue to coordinate with OPS and Resources on ASO needs going forward. A safety Message on Leptospirosis was posted to Share Point.

SITREP Safety Message: All accidents and injuries; no matter how minor, need to be reported. Any cuts can be infected easily with such infections as staph or leptospirosis especially in this deployment environment. Reporting these injuries immediately can help protect you later on for possible worker compensation claims.

2.5.2 Liaison Officer

The FEMA RRCC is transferring command and control to the PR JFO. The EPA LNO has demobilized from the RRCC site, and will report to the R2 REOC to continue operations on Monday, 10/23/2017.

2.5.3 Information Officer:

The PIO is Rusty Harris-Bishop, who can be reached at 415-694-8840. The Assistant PIO for Media Relations is Darrin Larson who can be reached at 972-467-5509 and the Assistant PIO for Community Relations is Pat Seppi, who can be reached at 646-369-0068.

A new Field PIO will arrive to Puerto Rico on Sunday. Until then, we will rely on CEPD staff for media relations.

A Maria update news release was published on 10/20 and highlighted the Regional Administrator's visit to St. Croix and St. Thomas and his meeting with Governor Mapp, the re-sampling at the Dorado Superfund site, and EPA's first contact with the Lares community in Puerto Rico. The Information Officer is planning a release for 10/22 progress and a more detailed explanation about the rejected data from the Dorado Superfund sampling last weekend. The PIO will continue to provide all Region 2 staff with relevant Maria news clips and EPA news releases.

The EPA Hurricane Maria web site is being managed by Region 2 and the HQ EOC.

Media Inquiries:

Reporters should email their inquiries to press@epa.gov

Community Involvement:

There are currently three CIC's in San Juan, three CIC's in Mayaguez, three CIC's are in Ponce and three CIC's in the USVI. Silvia Paloma will be at the JFO, while the remaining CIC's will be working with field assessment teams on outreach.

Members of the public should be directed to EPA's toll free hotline 1-888-283-7626. This line will now be staffed during regular business hours (Eastern).

2.5.4 Drinking Water and Water Treatment

Puerto Rico Drinking Water Status PRASA:

- 43 of the 115 drinking water treatment plants (WTPs) operated by PRASA are out of service.
- 72 WTPs are working on alternate power or primary power.
- 28.5% of the population are without drinking water services.
- The plants that are out of services are because lack of primary power, lack of diesel, operational problems or clogged intakes.
- List of Plants out of service:
 1. Caguas Sur (4.75 MGD) – Due to recent rain events, raw water intake was clogged.
 2. Gurabo Nueva (4.0 MGD) - Due to recent rain events, raw water intake was clogged.
 3. Barrancas (0.55 MGD) - Raw water intake out of service.
 4. Barranquitas Urbano (0.7 MGD) - Due to recent rain events, raw water intake was clogged.
 5. Las Bocas (1.0 MGD) – Alternate Power Unit out of service.
 6. Cayey Urbano (3.5 MGD) – Raw water intake out of service.
 7. Culebras Alto (0.33 MGD) - Alternate Power Unit out of service.
 8. Comerio Rio Hondo (3.0 MGD) - Due to recent rain events, raw water intake was clogged.
 9. Humacao Las Piedras (6.0 MGD) - Due to recent rain events, raw water intake was clogged.
 10. Juncos Urbano (2.0 MGD) – Polimer pump out of service.
 11. Canovanas (10 MGD) – Alternate Power Unit out of service.
 12. Guzman Arriba (1.0 MGD) – Raw water intake pipe broken.
 13. Arecibo Urbano (1.5 MGD) - Alternate Power Unit out of service.
 14. Esperanza (0.5 MGD) - Alternate Power Unit out of service.
 15. Rio Arriba (0.25 MGD) - Raw Water Intake collapsed.
 16. Quebrada (2.0 MGD) – Raw Water Pump Station out of service.
 17. Canalizo (0.14 MGD) – Alternate Power Unit out of service.
 18. Mameyes Arriba (0.43 MGD) –Alternate Power Unit out of service.
 19. Lares Nueva (4.0 MGD) – Alternate Power Unit out of service.
 20. Lares Urbano (1.7 MGD) - Raw water pump station Alternate Power Unit out of service.
 21. Indiera Alta (0.5 MGD) - Raw water pump station flooded.
 22. Mameyes Abajo (0.22) - Raw water pump station Alternate Power Unit out of service.
 23. Santa Isabel (1.0 MGD) - Raw water pump station Alternate Power Unit out of service.
 24. Utuado Urbano (3.5 MGD) - Raw water pump station Alternate Power Unit out of service.
 25. Fronton (0.25 MGD) - Alternate Power Unit out of service.
 26. Jaguas Pesas (0.25 MGD) – Raw water intake alternate power unit out of service.
 27. Morovis Norte (0.5 MGD) – Alternate Power Unit out of service.

28. Morovis Sur (4.0 MGD) – Alternate Power Unit out of service.
29. Sanamuerto (0.5 MGD) - Alternate power unit out of service.
30. Almirante Sur (1.0 MGD) – Raw water pump station flooded.
31. Negros (2.5 MGD) - Alternate power unit out of service.
32. Guajataca (2.0 MGD) - Raw Water Supply clogged, being cleaned by DOD. This should be resolved next week.
33. Isabela (5.0 MGD) – Operational problems at the facility.
34. Sabana Grande (0.75 MGD) – Raw water intake clogged.
35. Coamo Urbano (1.05 MGD) – Collapsed raw water intake.
36. Matrullas (0.25 MGD) - Alternate Power Unit out of service.
37. Orocovois Urbano (3.3 MGD) – Raw water pipeline collapsed due to recent rain events.
38. Aceituna (2.5 MGD) – High turbidity.
39. Guayama Urbano (6.0 MGD) - Alternate power unit out of service.
40. Lizas (1.0 MGD) - Alternate Power Unit out of service.
41. Guayanes (1.2 MGD) - Alternate power unit out of service.
42. Jaguas Ceiba (0.18MGD) – Raw water intake clogged.
43. Ranchera (0.22 MGD) – Water Distribution pump station is out of service.

Non-PRASA Water Treatment Systems:

The Team is currently working with FEMA, USACE, EPA, and DOH to coordinate federal support to non-PRASA drinking water facilities. In Puerto Rico, there are 297 independent private and community water treatment systems that serve approximately 4% of the population. Details of the proposed visit schedule for EPA and DOH Assessment Teams were sent to EPA Region 2 Puerto Rico Incident Coordinator.

EPA is working with PRDOH and DOD, HHS and FEMA, in assessing the non-PRASA drinking water systems throughout PR. Such systems provide drinking water from wells and surface water to isolated communities located in rural areas in PR. Deployed teams assess drinking water quality, assess the condition of the systems, and identify other immediate needs (i.e., food, shelter, medical support, etc.). Identified needs are referred to FEMA/PREMA.

Puerto Rico Wastewater Status:

- 10 of the 51 wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) operated by PRASA are out of service.
- 9 WWTPs are working on primary power.
- Of the 10 WWTPs out of service, 6 are located upstream of a drinking water intake. These facilities are:
 1. Lares (1.2 MGD) – Influent pump station out of service.
 2. Utuado (2.0 MGD) - Main trunk sewer collapsed, no sewage reaching the plant.
 3. Barceloneta (8.3 MGD) – Alternate Power Unit out of service.
 4. Ciales (1.5 MGD) – Main trunk sewer collapsed, no sewage reaching the plant. A contractor is on-site.
 5. Corozal (1.25 MGD) - Main trunk sewer collapsed, no sewage reaching the plant. PRASA already has a contractor on site. It may take two weeks for repairs.
 6. Orocovis (0.5 MGD) – Alternate power unit out of service.

The remaining 4 WWTPs out of service are:

1. Barceloneta (8.3 MGD) – Alternate Power Unit out of service.
 1. Dorado (4.05 MGD) – Facility suffered major equipment damages since it was completely flooded
 2. Toa Alta (0.8 MGD) – Plant was flooded, major equipment damages.
 3. Santa Isabel WWTP (5.5 MGD) – Alternate Power Unit out of service but is being repaired.
- The Maricao (0.25 MGD) which main trunk sewer collapsed, is back in service.
 - The Comerio (1.0 MGD) which main trunk sewer collapsed, is back in service. The collapsed trunk sewer is being repaired but PRASA is hauling sewage to the plant from a pump station.
 - PRASA owns close to 800 sanitary pump stations.
 - Today, at least 233 sanitary pump stations are overflowing sewage due to lack of power, malfunctioning power generator or pumping problems.
 - Of these 233 pump stations, 92 are located upstream of a water supply intake.
 - The biggest concern is the Torrecillas Pump Station, which is tributary to the Carolina WWTP and is the largest pump station in the island. The station, which currently pumps around 25 MGD suffered major damages due to flooding. PREPA was energizing the area to get the pump station back in service and PRASA is trying to obtain a generator from FEMA.

USVI Drinking Water Status

VIWAPA is reporting:

- o While water service remains available throughout Cruz Bay, St. John, there are two days of emergency water storage on the island.
- o There are six days of emergency water storage on St. Thomas. The Water Division continues to work with electrical crews to re-energize additional pump stations. The water division is working with FEMA and WAPA electric crews to restore service to two pump stations which are currently off line. The pump stations, once restored would allow a resumption of potable water to Savan and Contant Knolls communities.
- o On St. Croix, there are four days of emergency water storage. WAPA is pumping at full capacity at Contentment, Mount Welcome and Concordia pump stations. This has facilitated water service to mid-island and Frederiksted town.

STX:

- Drinking water sampling continued in coordination with DPNR. DPNR identified a total of 181 drinking water systems for EPA assistance with sampling. EPA continues to collect samples from these systems.
- Samples collected are taken to the Ocean Systems Lab on STX for microbial analysis.
- EPA continues assisting DPNR with notifying the owner/operators of the systems sampled with the results of the samples.
- EPA presented DPNR with a draft decision-making matrix for review. This matrix will help guide EPA's water sampling assistance to the department. EPA and DPNR discussed this matrix at the drinking water coordination meeting.

STT/STJ:

- Drinking water sampling activities continue. EPA continues to coordinate drinking water sampling with DPNR. Samples collected are taken to the Ocean Systems Lab on STT for microbial analysis.
- EPA is continuing to coordinate with DPNR to prioritize drinking water facilities to be assessed and sampled.
- Staff from the DOH continue to accompany EPA sampling teams to deliver analytical results to locations that supply potable water to the public that tested positive for total coliform.

USVI Wastewater Status

- VIWMA continues assessments of all waste water facilities. Most facilities assessed to date either need a generator to power the facility or fuel for the facility. All critical needs for the facilities have been relayed to the appropriate ESF. No further action has been requested of EPA at this time.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

EPA HQ is staffing the ES-10 desk at the FEMA NRCC in Washington, D.C. EPA remains actively engaged in UC with federal, state, and local partners.

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

United States Coast Guard (USCG)
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board (PREQB)
Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER)
Puerto Rico Emergency Management Agency (PREMA)
Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (PRASA)
Puerto Rico Department of Health (PRDOH)
Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR)
Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA)
Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (VIWAPA)
Virgin Islands Department of Health (VIDOH)
Virgin Islands Department of Waste Management (VIDWM)

4. Personnel On Site

Additional EPA personnel and contractors are in the process of being deployed to impacted areas of PR and the VI.

EPA staff continue to participate in the NRCC in Washington, D.C. and also the REOC in Edison, NJ.

For more detailed information, see the Personnel Table in Resources, Section 2.2.1 of the SITREP.

5. Definition of Terms

Assisting and Cooperating Agencies - Agencies who are assisting the EPA response, but are not a part of Unified Command.

E Goods - Electronic machines which contain hazardous components.

Emergency Response - any activity undertaken by the Operations Section which mitigated an immediate threat to human health or the environment.

ESF – Emergency Support Function. The ESFs provide the structure for coordinating Federal interagency support for a Federal response to an incident. They are mechanisms for grouping functions most frequently used to provide Federal support to States and Federal-to-Federal support, both for declared disasters and emergencies under the Stafford Act and for non-Stafford Act. incidents

FRP - Facility Response Plan. Under the Clean Water Act, as amended by the Oil Pollution Act, a plan for responding, to the maximum extent practicable, to a worst case discharge, and to a substantial threat of such a discharge, of oil. Required by certain facilities that store and use large quantities of oil.

HHW- Household Hazardous Waste - Small quantity waste from households that contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable, or reactive ingredients is hazardous. This includes pesticides, paint, solvents, etc.

Hazardous Debris - Debris which contains compounds that make it inappropriate for municipal landfill disposal.

JHA – Job Hazard Analysis.

MA - Mission Assignment.

QAPP - Quality Assurance Project Plan.

PPE - Personal Protective Equipment.

RCRA - Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

RMP- Risk Management Plan. Under the Clean Air Act, certain facilities with large quantities of toxic potentially air born chemicals whose releases may impact human populations are required to submit to EPA a plan for hazard assessment, prevention, and emergency response.

Small Container - any container with a potential capacity of less than 5 gallons.

SPCC - Spill Prevention, Control and Counter-measures

TRI - Toxic Release Inventory - A publicly available EPA database that contains information on toxic chemical releases and other waste management activities reported annually by certain covered industry groups as well as federal facilities. This inventory was established under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA) and expanded by the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990.

Unified Command - A structure based on the Incident Command System (ICS) that brings together the Incident Commanders of all major organizations involved in the incident in order to coordinate an effective response, while at the same time allowing each to carry out their own jurisdictional, legal, and functional responsibilities.

White Goods - Large home electronics such as refrigerators, washing machines, and dryers.

WW - Wastewater Treatment Facilities

6. Additional sources of information

U.S. EPA: www.epa.gov/hurricane-irma, www.epa.gov/hurricane-maria

FEMA: www.fema.gov/hurricane-irma

VITEMA: www.vitema.gov , <https://www.facebook.com/vitema/>

VIWAPA: www.viwapa.vi/Home.aspx

National Hurricane Center: www.nhc.noaa.gov

Government of USVI: www.vi.gov

Newspaper in USVI: <http://viconsortium.com/>

Government of PR: www.pr.gov

7. Situational Reference Materials

Situational updates from the field and the Command and General Staff members are due to the Situation Unit by 1400 hours daily. Situation Reports are projected to be distributed by 1700 hours daily. In addition, Management Reports are distributed daily.

The REOC has established a dedicated viewer for presenting a Common Operating Picture (COP). The viewer can be accessed by visiting <https://r2.ercloud.org/er/irma/viewer.aspx>. Region 2 OSCs can access the viewer by inputting their TRACE credentials. Those that do not have access can request authorization by clicking on the "Create Account" tab, followed by "Request Access".